punditry innovation

"All progress depends on the unreasonable man."

- George Bernard Shaw

"Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted."

- Martin Luther King

"experts" reality check?

"The telephone has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication."

- Western Union Internal Memo, 1876

"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."

- Lord Kelvin, President, Royal Society, 1895

"There is no reason for any individuals to have a computer in their home."

- Ken Olsen, President, Chairman and Founder of DEC, 1977

Extrapolating the past...

1949: "Where a calculator like the ENIAC today is equipped with 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers in the future may have only 1,000 vacuum tubes and perhaps weigh only 1½ tons."

The reality...

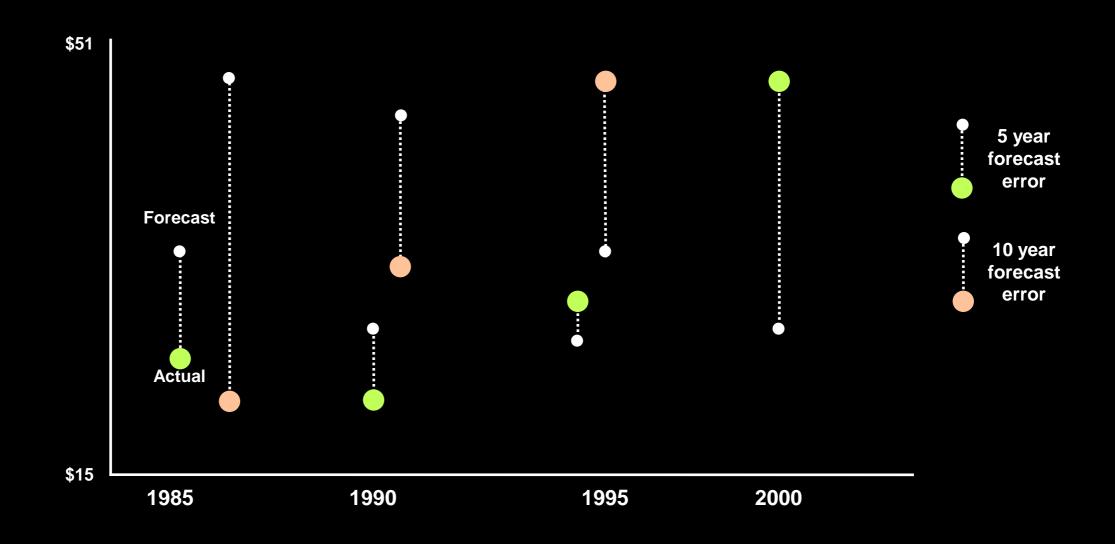


forecasting

"It is the mark of an educated person to look for precision only as far as the nature of the subject allows."

- Aristotle

oil price forecasts (1985-2005)

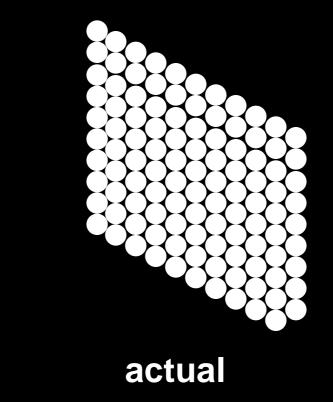


EIA oil price forecasts: 2005 through 2009



Mckinsey: US mobile subscribers

1980 forecast for 2000



forecast

yesterday's technology, tomorrow's forecast

1980's phone:



year 2000 phone:



quantitative modeling flaws

models with given inputs are precise but inaccurate

• low "standard deviation", but with high "standard error"

• input the measurable, ignore the immeasurable

obscured embedded assumptions

the folly of predictions: tetlock study

hundred's of experts.

80,000+ "expert" forecasts & 20+ years

Results: Experts are about as good forecasters as dart-throwing monkeys

"relevant scale" solutions for

... oil

... coal

... materials

... (efficiency of oil & coal use)

"...relevant cost"

"...relevant scale"

"...relevant adoption"

evaluation criteria

Trajectory: "What is" or "What Can Be"

Scalability Trajectory

Cost Trajectory

Adoption Risk

Capital Formation

Optionality

Carbon Reduction Capacity

"extrapolation of the past"

VS.

"inventing the future"



"black swan"

...rarity, extreme impact, and retrospective (though not prospective) predictability

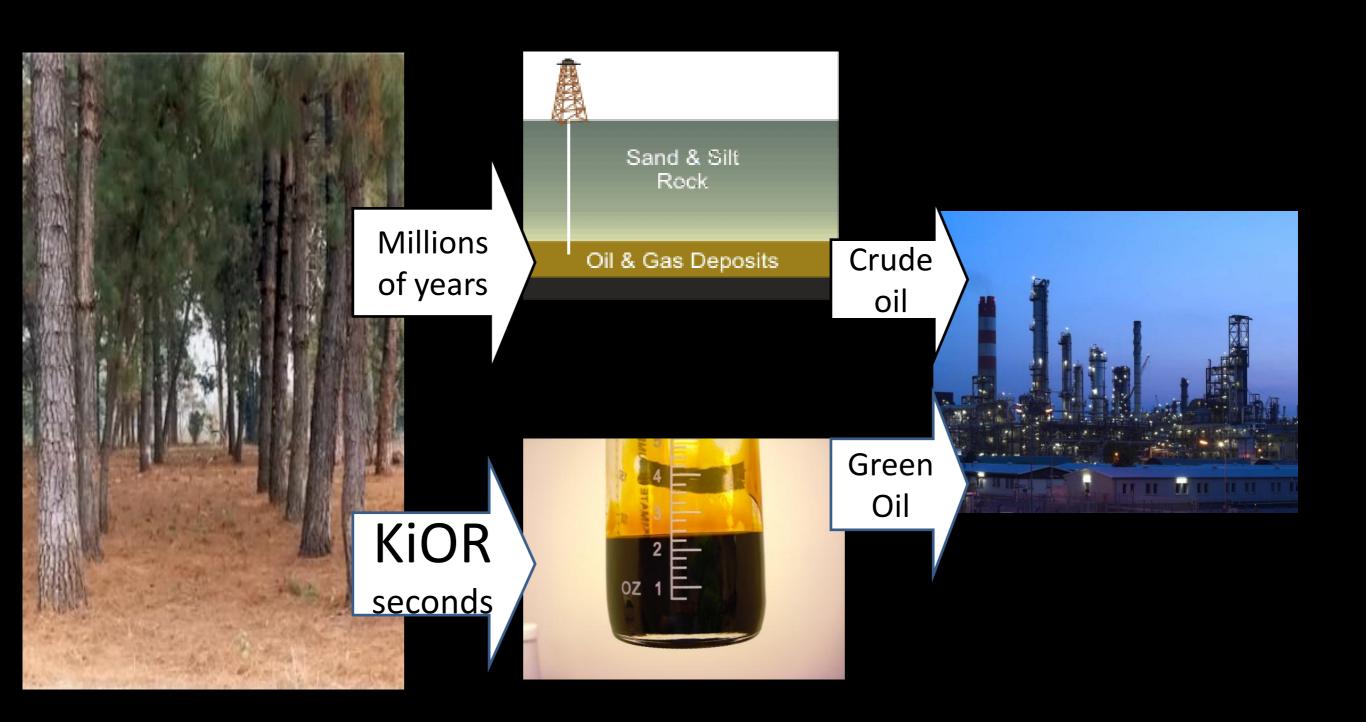
calera

"turning problem carbon dioxide into a feedstock"

KiOR

"a million year crude production cycle reduced to hours?"

The big idea: accelerating nature



ecomotors

"50-100% more efficient engines cutting world oil consumption in half"

"2X the efficiency improvements of hybrids at 10% of the cost"

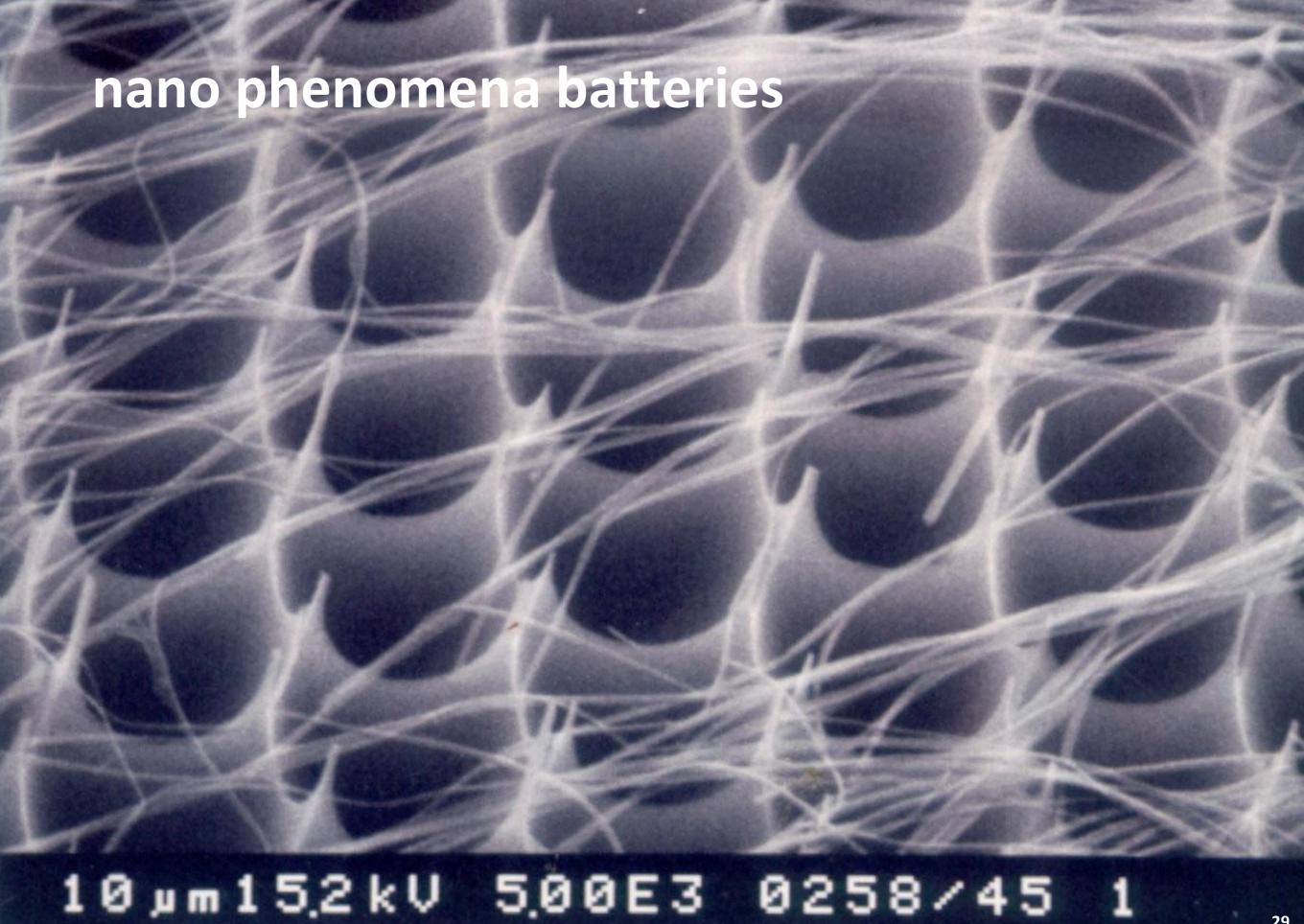
soraa

"10X less electricity use for lighting"

...technology expands the 'art of the possible.'

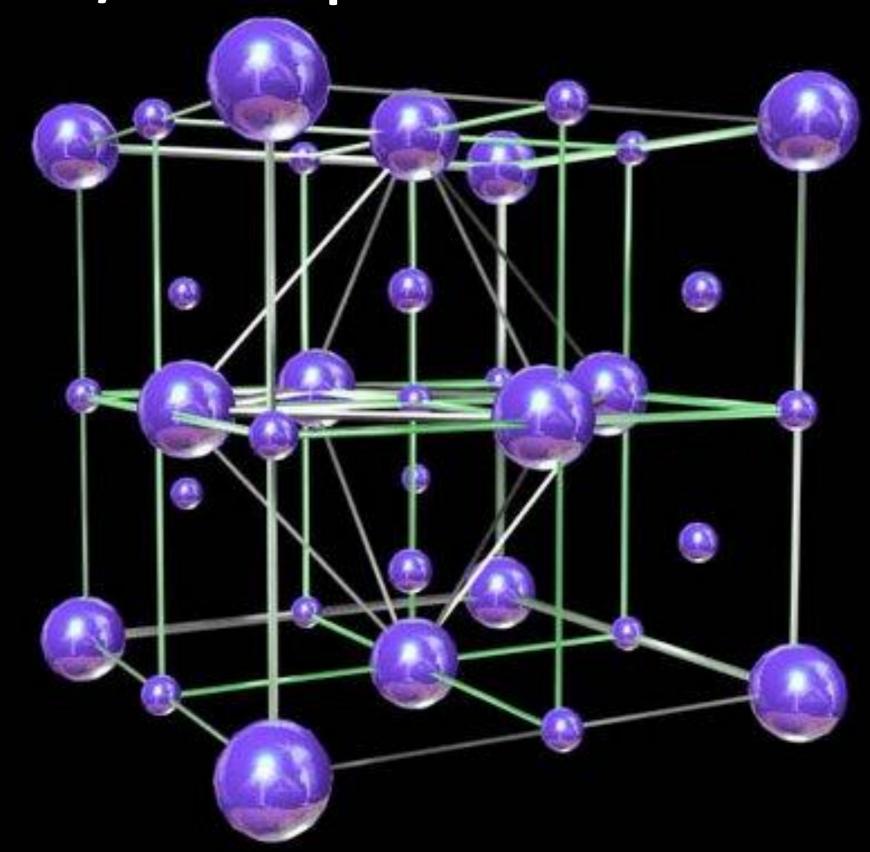
...today's 'unimaginable' is tomorrow's 'conventional wisdom.'





Source: http://www.research.ph

LENR / Desktop Fusion



gasoline/methane from CO₂?



using absorbed light or heat to "convert" CO2

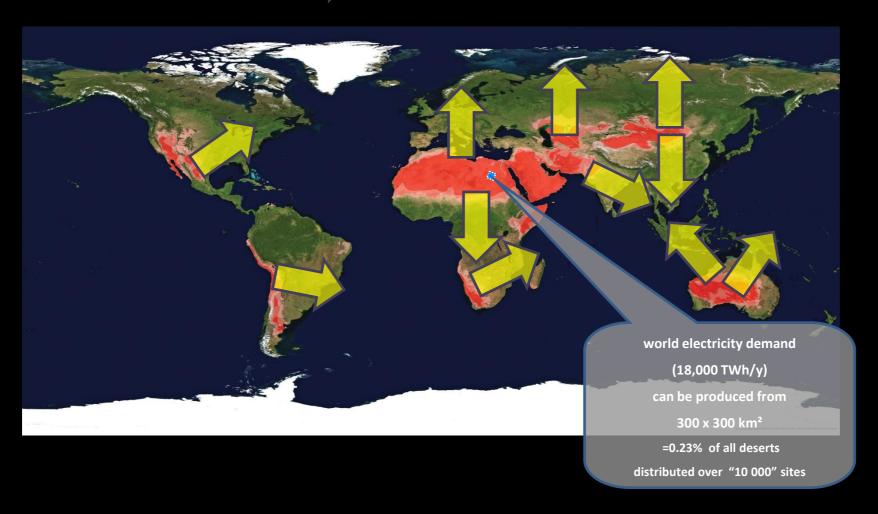
path to black swans...

more shots on goal!

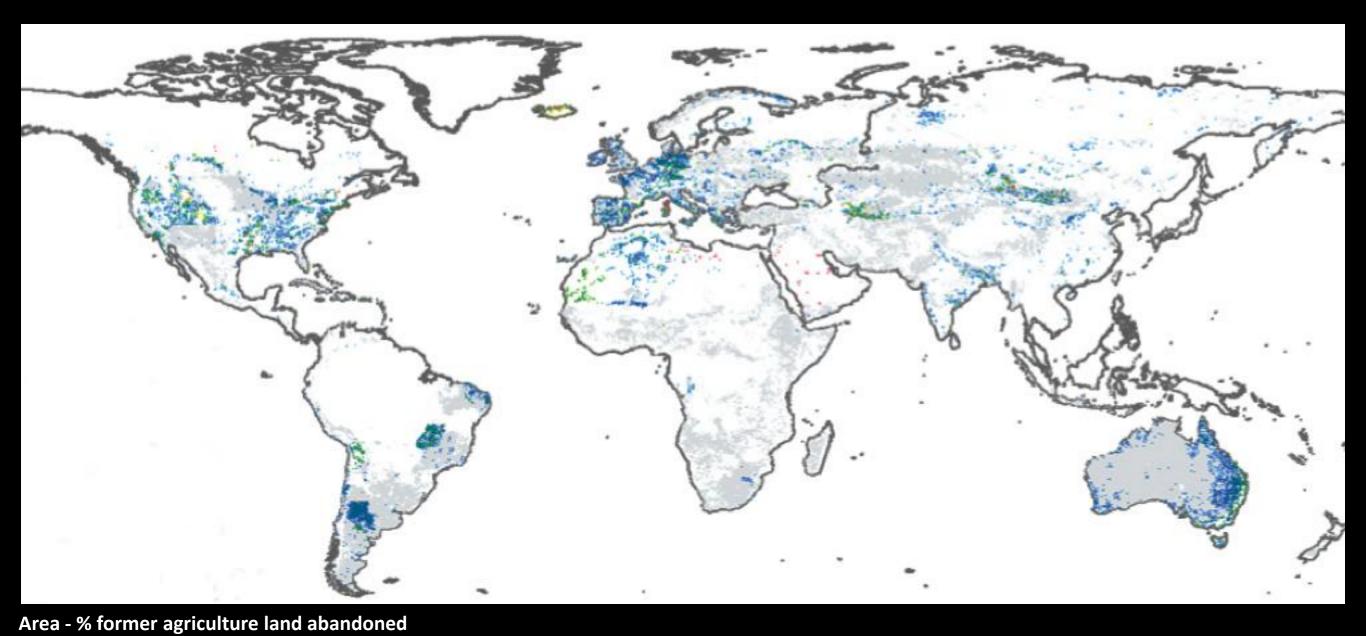
One Billion Acres?

Deserts as solar farms





another billion acres...





yet another billion acres...

winter cover crops

yet ANOTHER billion acres...

geothermal

negawatt energy savings!

soraa, PAX

negabarrel energy efficiencies!

ecomotors, transonic combustion

exponential innovation...

assuming ~2% rate of change...

= 1.8X units

to predict 2040 in 2010,

we would need to predict 2010 in 1926!

= 1.8X units

2010 2040

as surely as...

1985: NOT a PC in every home

1990: No email for grandma

1995: NOT the internet

2000: No pervasive mobile

2005: No financial implosion

2010+: reason for optimism

...the sources of innovation

Google, Facebook, Twitter: Fox, NBC, CBS

Ebay: NY Times, Wash Post,....

Amazon : Walmart

First Solar : Shell

Cree: GE

ABI: J&J

Juniper: Lucent

Netscape: IBM

.... policy/fashion

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... smart grids: 10% solutions?
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... zero energy buildings: reverse scale economics?

... electric cars or coal powered cars?

... low carbon electricity or renewable electricity?

... hundreds of billions of dollars?

.... evaluation

... not "conventional wisdom" : CCS

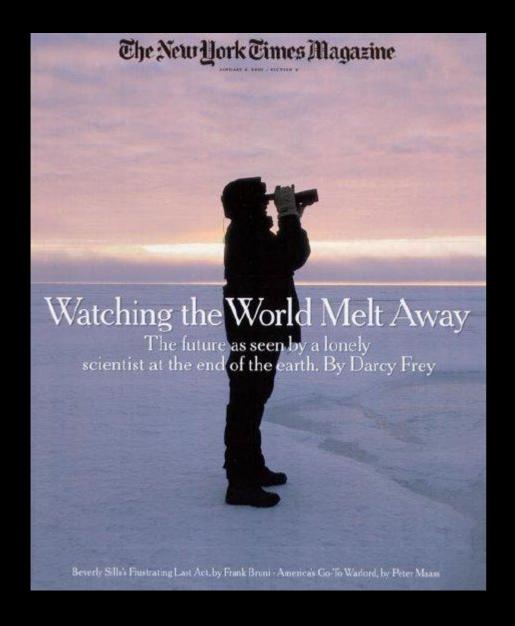
... Greeconomics vs. Economics

... big company vs. startup bias

... static vs. dynamic view: E85 engines

... Pragmentalists vs. Environmentalists vs. Pundits

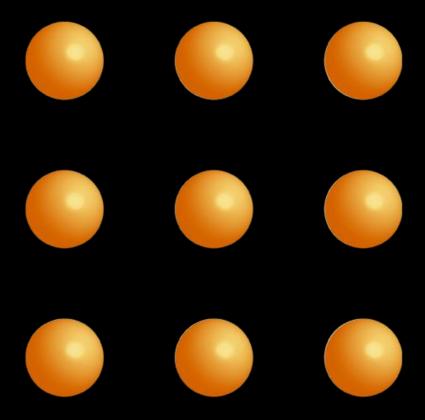
to predict the future, invent it!



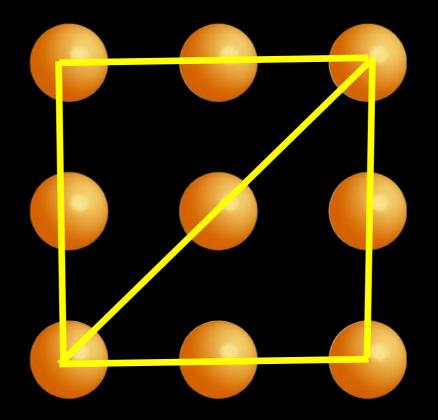
... or get to work.

vk@khoslaventures.com khoslaventures.com/resources.html

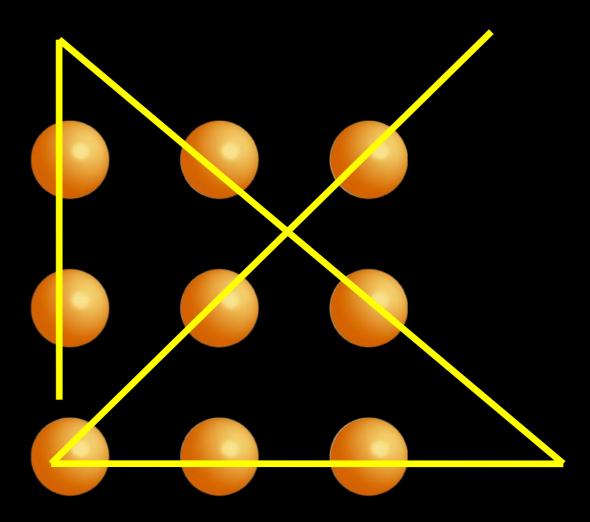
nine dots problem



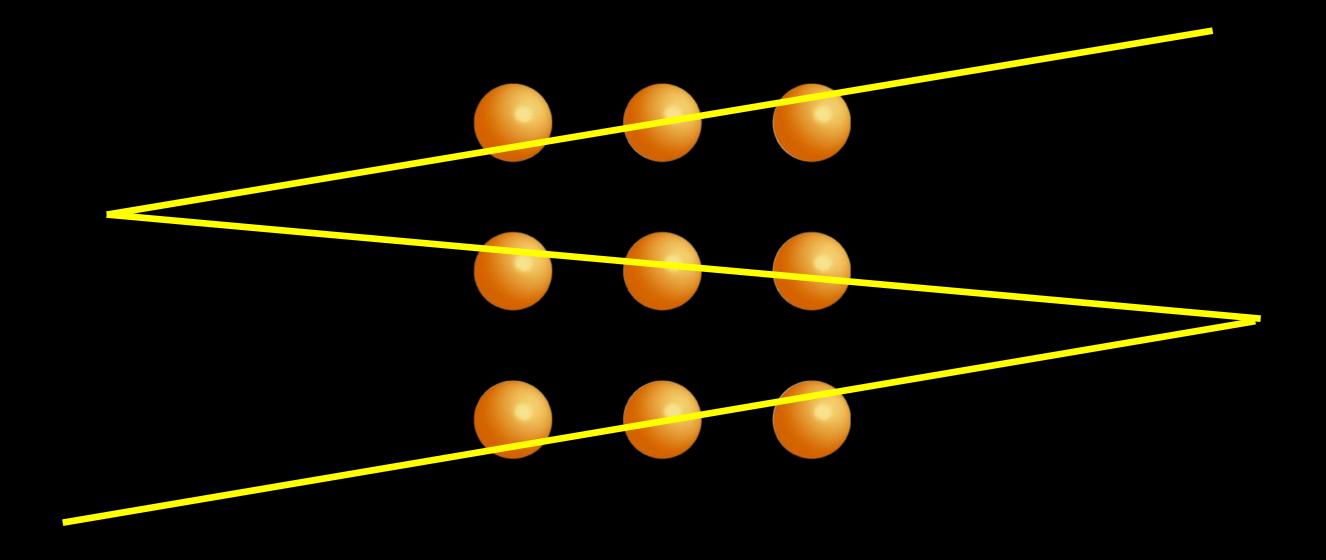
standard nine dots solution



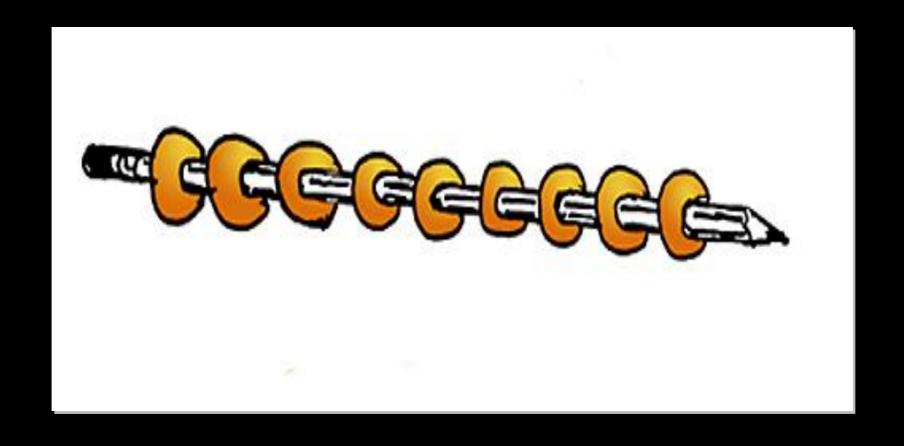
standard nine dots solution



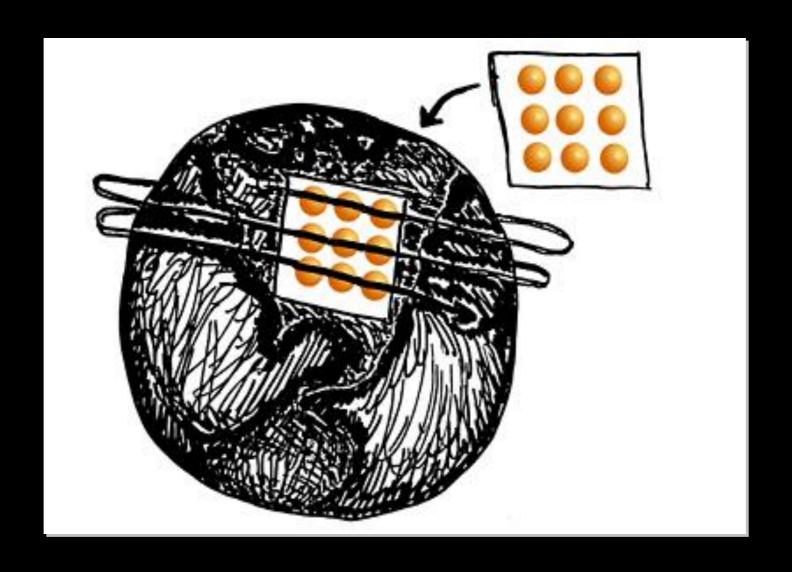
better: use just three lines



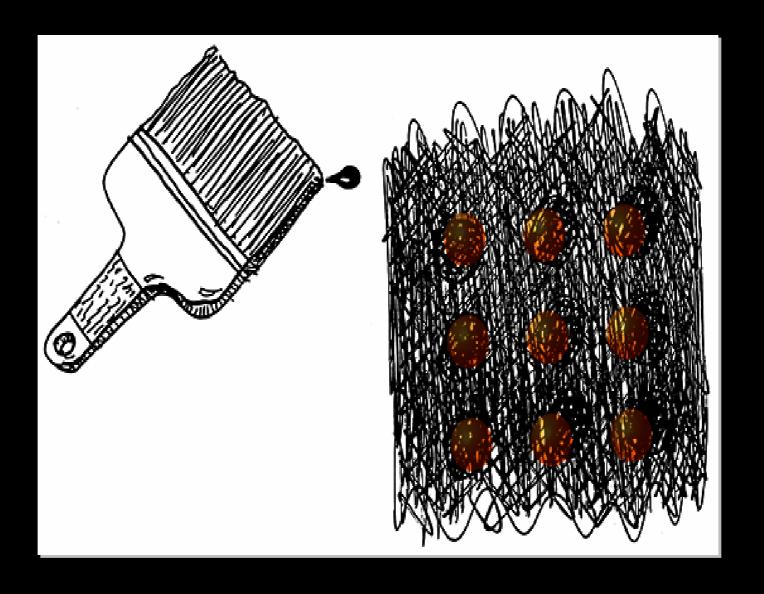
mechanical engineer's solution



geographer's solution



wide line solution



"...every strategic inflection point [is] characterized by a '10X' change ..."

"There's wind and then there is a typhoon, there are waves and then there's a tsunami"